

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following remarks, pursuant to and consistent with the practice under *Ex Parte Quayle*, are respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, the specification has been amended to recite trademark terms in all capitalized letters and to include the corresponding generic terminology at the first recitation of the trademark term. The specification has also been amended on pages 4-5 to correct the generic terminology for EDTA. Additionally, claims 21, 43 and 45 have been amended. Specifically, claim 21 has been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error as noticed by the Examiner. Claims 43 and 45 have also been amended to address the multiple dependency issue. No new matter has been added by the subject amendments to the specification or claims.

Turning now to the Action, the Examiner has indicated that the application is in condition for allowance except for certain formal matters.

In particular, the Examiner has maintained the objections to the specification "for the reasons of record." See ACTION at 2. Applicants offer the following comments in response to these objections to the specification. First, the objection regarding amending the specification to include the priority status has already been addressed in the September 29, 2004 Amendment and Reply. Second, the specification has been amended to obviate the objection with regard to the issue of the use of trademarks. Third, concerning the misspelling of certain terms, corrections to the term "cysteine" have been previously addressed in the September

29, 2004 Amendment and Reply and pages 4-5 have been herein amended to address the generic terminology of EDTA.

Claims 21 and 43-44 have also been objected to for various informalities.

Claim 21 has herein been amended to recite "inactivate" instead of "inactive." Additionally, claims 43 and 45 have been amended to address the multiple dependency issue.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the objections to the specification and claims is requested. Further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment and Reply, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: March 17, 2005

By: 

Susan M. Dadio
Registration No. 40,373

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620